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# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### KRUG NAMES EIGHT MORE RAT CONTROL DEMONSTRATION CITIES

Designation of eight more rat control demonstration cities was announced today by Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug. They are Bismarck, N. D., Portland, Me., Providence, R. I., Rochester, N. Y., Ashland, Ohio, Passaic, N. J., Erie and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The objective of the National Urban Rat Control Campaign is the saving of as large a part as possible of this Nation's annual billion dollar bill for food eaten, wasted and contaminated by rats, and in which every city shares. Hamilton M. Warren, vice president of the National Carbon Company of New York, is chairman of the National Campaign. In announcing the campaign, Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug said, "In this time of world suffering, food shortages and high prices, we can ill afford to waste our vital food supplies feeding rats."

Each demonstration city is expected to serve its surrounding region as a focal point for the National Urban Rat Control Campaign starting in March. There will be 26 such centers, the remainder to be named this week.

Citizen groups from nearby cities are invited to visit the demonstration centers and observe progress in rat-killing, ratproofing buildings, and removal of food and nesting places which attract rats. Municipal anti-rat ordinances and public rat control operations will be studied.

Special rat control consultants, temporarily borrowed from localities by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the campaign, are reporting now to the demonstration cities to assist local governments and civic groups.

Bismarck, N. D., serving North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska, is recognized as one of the most aggressive cities in the region in the fight against rats. City Commissioners William Moeller, Frank Hedden, John Spare, and Al Mayer recorded their support of the program carried on under the direction of Dr. Percy L. Ownes. The Women's Community Council elected to make rat control a major project this year.

Portland, Me., initiated rat control after a survey last summer revealed heavy infestation along the waterfront and such examples of rat damage as the \$5,000 loss suffered by a single local factory in one year. Health Officer Dr. Albert D. Foster directs the intensified program which will serve as a model to cities in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Providence, R. I., will emphasize early spring clean-up of trash and rubbish in demonstrating its program to groups from Connecticut and Rhode Island. Mayor Dennis Roberts has been asked to release Dr. Edwin N. Knights from the city health department for two months to be Fish and Wildlife Service rat control expert for the two states.

Rochester, N. Y., demonstration city for New York State, has a three-year old rat control program directed by Mayor Samuel B. Dicker and Health Commissioner Dalbert D. Kaiser, with the active cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce. Already known for its anti-rat publicity leaflets, the city will now serve as a training center for personnel from surrounding cities.

Ashland, Ohio. Selection brought public applause, newspaper headlines, and endorsements from Mayor Louis E. Mansfield and the Chamber of Commerce. The City Council immediately passed a rat control ordinance. Health Commissioner Dr. C. B. Meuser directs the program, which will be the model for the State of Ohio.

Passaic, N. J., has anticipated the national campaign by starting this month with a 100-day Drive Against Rats, directed by Joseph B. Kane, Chief Sanitary Inspector in the Health Department. A training school for other New Jersey cities will be held in Passaic.

Erie and Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Pennsylvania with 103 cities over 10,000 population receives two demonstration centers and a Fish and Wildlife Service rat control expert to assist in each. A rat control program has been operating for one year in Erie under the direction of Safety Director Joe Martin.

In addition to the National Demonstration City, Washington, D. C., Corpus Christi, Texas; Baltimore, Maryland; Shreveport, Louisiana and Jackson, Mississippi, have already been named.

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